

SWISS REPUDIATES THE "INITIATIVE"

Has Only Produced One Statute and That a Law of Intolerance.

Leading Men of Switzerland Declare That the "Referendum" Has but Served to Defeat Good Measures and is a Mischief-Doing Device of Which They Would Gladly Be Rid.

ZURICH, SWITZERLAND, December 10.—I have made my pilgrimage to the famous "fountain head" of direct legislation, and have found only a muddy pool. Instead of the headquarters of the initiative and referendum, I find that Switzerland is only a way-station.

Poland appears to be the first European country that legalized these doubtful devices. They were granted on the constitution of Switzerland much as they were tacked to our municipal charter at home, and they have proved no more satisfactory among the plateaus of the Alps than in the lowlands of Southern California.

In 1725 the initiative and the referendum became a part of the constitution of Switzerland, and for a hundred years the government was dominated by direct legislation. During that period the initiative and the referendum were supreme. At the end of the hundred years the government was still dominated by direct legislation.

The initiative is a dead letter in the Swiss federal government. Direct legislation, when attempted, is destructive, and the government is now dominated by the initiative and the referendum. The initiative is a dead letter in the Swiss federal government. Direct legislation, when attempted, is destructive, and the government is now dominated by the initiative and the referendum. The initiative is a dead letter in the Swiss federal government. Direct legislation, when attempted, is destructive, and the government is now dominated by the initiative and the referendum.

Only Intolerance.

This amendment still stands on the Swiss statute books. "Kosher" meat is prepared by several butchers in Richmond. It is sold in every large city in Europe and America outside of Switzerland. But the orthodox Hebrew living in the Swiss republic must secure his meat outside the country.

This is the single instance in which the initiative has been invoked in the Swiss federal government during recent years. Last summer the Socialist agitators of Zurich attempted to invoke the referendum for the protection of the anarchists and the nihilists within the city's gates. So many crimes committed in other countries had been traced to emissaries from Switzerland that protests were made by foreign powers to the President and Parliament at Bern.

Thereupon the Swiss Parliament passed a law providing a punishment of fine and imprisonment for "inciting others to anarchistic acts or glorifying others who have committed such acts."

This law awakened bitter opposition in the Socialist cantons of Zurich and Lucerne. Remonstrances were placed in circulation, protesting against this new law. To invoke the referendum in the Federal government 30,000 sig-

term if he lives long enough to wait for his proper turn.

The roster of Swiss Presidents runs in rotation. In 1908 Adolph Deneher will be President. In 1909 Joseph Zemp, in 1910 Ernst Brenner, in 1911 Robert Comtesse, in 1912 Tschudi, Then comes Forrer's turn again.

The rule of these seven men is almost absolute. In many matters they usurp the functions of Parliament, and there is no protest. The Swiss themselves are beginning to complain mightily of being governed too much. They now accept "executive" rulers issued by the Federal Council just as readily as a law passed by the Parliament; and there is no appeal to the referendum against an executive order.

Here Parliament is superior to the Supreme Court; a statute is legal because it expresses the will of the majority. The minority has no rights which the government is bound to consider. An amendment must be constitutional. The individual has no rights which the government is bound to respect. If the people should vote to confiscate the dairies without paying for them, there would be no appeal. Nothing is sacred; there is no protection for the individual.

A recent incident well illustrates the effect where the statute is superior to the common law and to the courts. In Lucerne a three-year-old child took some pears from a fruit stand. The child was arrested and brought to trial. No defense could be made on the ground that the child was not old enough to understand what theft was. The law says that theft must be punished by imprisonment, and this baby was sent to jail for thirty days; the court could not act otherwise.

This is a simple illustration of a country where the letter of the statute is the only law. Here the citizen is permitted to enjoy his life, his liberty, his property, his home and his social and family relations only by the sufferance of the multitude. Such a thing as an inalienable right is not contemplated by the Swiss constitution. Personal rights are subject to the popular will.

I have failed to discover that the citizen of Switzerland receives a commensurate benefit for surrendering his individual rights. In this respect the Swiss law is very similar to the letter of the old English law, abolished by the Magna Charta.

Initiative a Dead One.

I have asked fifty people here ranging in the social scale all the way from the United States consul and the Vice-President of the republic to the porter that carried my grip to the train, to relate to me an instance in which the initiative has been used to introduce a salutary law, and I have received only one instance.

Not one of the fifty suggested. It appears that the referendum is used chiefly by the forest cantons; these oppose all attempts at legislation that includes any marked expenditure of money. The country cantons are jealous of the growth of the cities. They resent the encroachments of the towns on the pastures, and they are always ready to vote against improvements that will put money directly into their own pockets.

I found United States Consul Higgins one of the most popular men in Bern. He is exceptionally well posted, even for an American consul, and I am proud to say that our consul appears to rank in intelligence above those of the European countries.

Barred by the rules of the diplomatic service from discussing questions affecting the government of the country, Mr. Higgins secured for me interviews with commercial and political leaders of the republic. But in each instance it was stipulated that they should not be quoted for publication. A Swiss official has a nameless dread for a reporter, most of all

for one of American nationality.

The opinion of these officials is unanimous that the initiative and the referendum are not devices conducive to good government. But each was able to name at least one salutary law that has been defeated by the referendum. Six different acts were named in all. Some affected the tariff, others the finances. In each instance the story was the same. The country people vote continuously against the expenditure of money, and it is difficult to run a republic on good will alone.

Graft exists here as a limited scale only; not by reason of any special form of government, but because the country is so small and so old that every man knows his neighbor's income and every hundred-mark piece is so well known that it can be traced.

Strong Testimony.

I asked Dr. M. Buhler, editor of a Bernese daily with unpronounceable name, but the organ of the administration, to cite me an instance where the referendum has defeated vicious legislation. But he replied through his interpreter that he could recall no such instance. He is one of the influential men of Bern. He has been an editor for fifteen years.

I made a similar request of Vice-Consul Frankfort. He referred me to the regulations of the diplomatic service, just as his chief had done, but he promised to assist me in getting expressions from prominent citizens of Bern.

All one evening we sat together in the lobby of a hotel adjoining the government buildings and frequented by Swiss government officials. Mr. Frankfort introduced me to eight of these, and two or three guests of the hotel. But one out of them all had a good word to say for the referendum. They said the initiative is a forgotten statute.

Politics plays a prominent part in the referendum elections. This device is made use of by the politicians of the minority party. Sometimes the forest cantons vote with them, and it has the effect of reversing the administration.

The one man favoring the referendum was the clerk of the hotel. He said it is a handy implement with which to swat the frock-coated officials at the federal buildings. He thinks it curbs extravagance. But the men of Zurich in Switzerland say the referendum brings with it a penny-wise policy that hinders the growth and development of the republic.

A few cantons in the southern part of Switzerland fairly reek with frank legislation. These are infested by disciples of unrest, and they are among the least prosperous in the republic.

Berne is trying to break away from its crude charter and secure a local government based on the lines of those of American cities. Under its present charter all ordinances are voted on by the people; every council meeting is a special election. Most of the voting is done on Sunday. The polls are generally open all that day.

The last Sunday I was in Bern a real-hot election was on to determine whether the barber shops should be compelled to close at 12 o'clock noon in place of 1:30 P. M.

As the Swiss villages grow into cities they outstrip these puny charters. Here they regard the American form of government as the ideal one. Almost every attempted reform lingers on some new idea imported from America.

I told one high official here that the initiative and referendum have found a place in Los Angeles. "What!" he exclaimed, "you have put them in?" Why, we have been pointing to the American cities as shining examples of municipal prosperity, and using them as an argument for cutting those vexatious devices out.

Florida Excursion

PERSONALLY CONDUCTED,
Tuesday, March 19th, 1907,
VIA ATLANTIC COAST LINE,
From Richmond, Va.

Good to return on any train until April 10th, with stop-over privileges.
Jacksonville \$20.00
St. Petersburg \$27.45
Tampa \$27.45
Magnaolia Springs \$22.50
P. Myers \$20.00
Hollywood \$27.45
C. S. CAMPBELL,
838 E. Main Street.

RECORDS MADE IN RECENT SUNDAY-SCHOOL INSTITUTE

The committee in charge of the attendance cards of the Sunday-school institute, which closed on Thursday night at Grace Street Baptist Church, has prepared its report of attendance. A great many teachers attended, but did not turn in their cards. There were also a very large number of people who were present at the meetings, who were not officers and teachers, as the total number shown by these cards only amounted to 230 who attended 1,394 sessions, showing an average of a little over five sessions for each teacher. If the entire teaching force of the city could have been induced to take proper interest, the amount of good that would have been gained is incalculable.

As it was there were several hundred people who attended each session, but who were not regularly enrolled.

The best record in each denomination is as follows:

Christian—West End Church, 17 teachers, at 84 sessions.
Methodist—Centenary, 14 teachers, at 43 sessions.
Episcopal—Christ Church, 6 teachers, at 19 sessions.
Baptist—Grace Street Church, 16 teachers, at 73 sessions, and Broadus Memorial, 16 teachers, at 61 sessions.
Presbyterian—First Church, 16 teachers, at 113 sessions.
The Baptists led in total attendance, with 90 teachers, at 411 sessions. Both Baptists and Presbyterians had fifteen schools represented at the institute.

AT THE Y. M. C. A.

Dr. Ryland Knight Will Speak on "Daniel, the Undeified."

The meeting for men this afternoon will be held in the Central Y. M. C. A. Auditorium, Main and Sixth Streets. In the absence of the general secretary, the meeting will be in charge of Mr. W. L. Radcliffe, formerly general secretary at Cumberland, Md., now manager of the Radcliffe Lyeum Bureau, of this city. The speaker for the afternoon will be Rev. Dr. Ryland Knight, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, and his theme will be "Daniel, the Undeified." Mr. William L. Bailes will sing. The opening song service will begin promptly at 3:30 o'clock. All men are cordially invited. The regular meeting of the Boys'

Sunday Afternoon Club will be held in the Y. M. C. A. auditorium, Mr. T. C. Diggs will speak on "Candles." All boys not under ten and not yet sixteen are cordially invited. The opening song service will begin promptly at 3:15 o'clock.

The Conversational Bible Study Club will meet immediately after the men's meeting. The younger young men's meeting and the Gynnasium Bible Study Club will meet at the usual hour. Mr. W. R. Smith, of the High School, will speak to the younger young men's meeting. Young men fifteen to eighteen years of age are invited.

HOT FIGHT ON.

Temperance People of Patrick Make Attack on Distilleries.

STUART, Va., March 2.—This is Circuit Court week. Judge Alken, of Danville, was expected to preside for the first few days of court to dispose of some cases in which Judge Harvey had appeared as counsel before his appointment as judge, but was unable to attend on account of sickness; so those cases were all continued. Wednesday the seven whiskey distilleries in the county all made application for a license to do business for another year from May 1st; and in each and every case a number of citizens put themselves down as defendants, binding themselves for costs, and asked the court to set days when the matter can be heard. A hot contest arose over this motion to set some future day of the term to hear these applications that the defendants might summon witnesses, but the court granted the motion of the defendants, and set Tuesday, March 5th, to hear three of the applications, and Wednesday, March 6th, to hear the other four. There have been something like 300 witnesses subpoenaed to appear at the hearings. The issue is made, and the fight is on.

RICHMOND MAN TO WED AMELIA GIRL

Mr. R. P. Craddock, of Manbboro, Amelia county, announces the engagement of his daughter, Miss Sadie W. Craddock, to Mr. John R. Jeter. The marriage will take place during April at Salem Church, Amelia county. Mr. Jeter is a prominent young business man of this city.

PRETTY WEDDING AT ASHEVILLE

Miss Lila Rector Becomes Bride of Mr. Willis Philip Abbey.

BRIDE OF MARYLANDER

Miss Carrie James Weds Mr. I. F. Thomas—Virginia Brides During Week.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

ASHEVILLE, N. C., March 2.—Among the marriages of interest in Asheville this winter was the pretty afternoon wedding last Wednesday, when Miss Lila Rector became the bride of Mr. Willis Philip Abbey, which took place at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Rector, on South French Broad Avenue, this city. The house was decorated in tall pink, graceful ferns and exquisite carnations, shaded from the darkest red to the most delicate pink.

Just before the bridal party entered the drawing-room Miss Hurl, of Lynchburg, Va., rendered the solo "O, Promise Me." In a most pleasing manner, as the bridal party entered Mendelssohn's wedding march was rendered. The bride was modestly veiled in a gray broadcloth suit, with gloves and hat to match, and carried an exquisite bouquet of pink and white flowers. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Dr. Lunsford, pastor of the First Baptist Church. A reception followed, attended by a large number of the friends of the young couple, during which tea and wedding cake were served. Mr. and Mrs. Abbey left on the evening train for Charleston, S. C., where they will visit Mrs. Abbey's relations for a short time, later returning to Asheville where they will make their future home.

Thomas—James. Announcement has been made by Mr. and Mrs. H. R. James, of this city, of the marriage of their daughter, Miss Carrie James, to Mr. I. F. Thomas, of Cumberland, Md.

The marriage took place at the home of Mr. Williamson, on Pine Street, Lev. C. P. Moore officiating. Mr. Thomas at the time of his marriage contemplated change in business, and for this reason no announcement was made. Mrs. Thomas left here Tuesday morning to join her husband at Keyser, W. Va., which place they will make their future home. Mrs. Thomas had lived in Asheville for a number of years, and had a large circle of friends in this city.

FIRE'S FIRST GUN.

Anti-Saloon League Sets Forth Points It Will Emphasize.

The Anti-Saloon League of Virginia fired the first gun in the current issue of the "Civic Sentinel," this issue being a special number, with a vast amount of statistical information drawn from many sources. Rev. R. H. Bennett, of Randolph-Macon, is the editor, and an unusually large number of copies are being circulated free in Richmond and Manchester.

The Sentinel presents a strong appeal to the Christian and moral forces of the community to vote for temperance candidates in the coming elections. Among the points of legislation which the league will press are: To define the qualifications of voters in local option elections. To require social clubs to take a retail liquor license, with restrictions as to Sunday selling. To require the State chemist to analyze mixtures supposed to contain alcohol to be offered for sale. To bring distilleries under the Mann law. To make the local option law apply to the wards of a city. To prohibit dealers soliciting orders for business in dry districts. To strengthen the "anti-lunatic" law by providing a penitentiary sentence.

MASKED BALL.

Annual Festival Held by St. Moses Montefiore Congregation.

The annual masked ball of St. Moses Montefiore Congregation was held Wednesday evening at Sangar Hall. The first prize for costume went to Miss Minnie Roth, as the Statue of Liberty.

There were two raffish held for the benefit of the congregation. First prize was won by Mr. J. Cohen—a handsome silver service. Second prize was won by Mr. Grieger, of New York. The picture of St. Moses Montefiore was presented to the congregation by Professor Bruno Hymans.

The committee on arrangements was composed of Mr. A. Alprin, chairman; Mr. A. Gelman, treasurer; Mr. M. Solomon, secretary; Mr. J. Kaufman, master of ceremonies. The entertainment committee was composed of Messrs. Sam Stern, Simon Spilberg, Charles Britstein, N. Cohen, A. Kaminsky, Harry B. Brown, N. Weinstein.

ABINGDON SOCIAL

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

ABINGDON, VA., March 2.—Mr. W. S. Whiting returned Monday from a business trip to Cincinnati.

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Summers have returned from a short trip to Washington.

Mr. John C. Summers, Jr., left Thursday for Vivian, W. Va. Mr. Summers came home to be present at the marriage of his sister, Mrs. Clark, to Dr. Cummings.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Turner, of Roanoke, spent Sunday with Abingdon friends.

Mrs. George Slanson, of Baltimore, is the guest of Mrs. Mingea.

Mrs. Howard, of Lynchburg, was at Stonewall Jackson Institute for a few days this week as the guest of her daughters, Misses Louise and Elizabeth Howard.

Mrs. Farquhar and Miss Farquhar, of Canada, are at the Belmont, where they will spend the rest of the winter. They are here to be with Miss Farquhar, a popular member of the institute faculty. A Masonic supper was given Monday night by the Auxiliary of the Abingdon Hospital. Mrs. Brady, as the president of this association, assisted by a corps of able workers, made the supper a complete success in every way. One hundred and ten Masons and invited guests were present.

The young ladies of Stonewall Jackson Institute gave a pleasant reception Friday evening to their young men friends. Mrs. Aston entertained with a table of bridge Thursday afternoon in honor of Mrs. Slanson. Miss Sadie White and Mrs. Brady completed the table, and though a small, it was a delightful affair.

Miss Farquhar also asked a few of her friends in Thursday afternoon to meet her mother and sister at a pleasantly informal tea.

MERIT WINS

Ever since 1853 the famous
HOSTETTER'S
STOMACH BITTERS

has been before the public bringing good health to thousands of sickly men and women in all parts of the world. It has established a wonderful record of cures, and from the hundreds of letters of testimonial sent us we have conclusive proof to offer you that the Bitters is a very superior medicine. Surely, then, there can be no further doubt as to its ability to cure you of any ailment of the Stomach, Liver, Kidneys or Bowels. If there is, just try one bottle and let it prove for itself that it is the best medicine for your particular needs. It contains nothing but absolutely pure ingredients and those best adapted for strengthening the entire system.

Delay Is Costly

When the stomach is weak and appetite poor or when the liver and kidneys are inactive, sleep restless and blood impure, resort to the Bitters promptly. Nature needs the assistance that only this medicine can give, and the longer you delay in obtaining same the harder it is going to be to cure you. Past experience has proven that when the Bitters is taken promptly much suffering can be avoided.

It Always Cures

POOR APPETITE, BELCHING, BLOATING, CRAMPS, SICK HEADACHE, COSTIVENESS, BILIOUSNESS, SOUR RISINGS, HEARTBURN, DYSPEPSIA, INDIGESTION, LIVER AND KIDNEY TROUBLES, FEMALE ILLS, CHILLS, COLDS OR MALARIA, FEVER AND AGUE.



Be Persuaded

to get a bottle today from your Druggist, Grocer or General Dealer and take a dose before meals and at bedtime and see how quickly your ailments will disappear; but remember that it is sold only in bottles, like the illustration, and has our Private Stamp over the neck. Refuse all others.

Read These Letters Carefully

MR. C. HAGEMAN, LOUISVILLE, KY., says: "I have derived great benefit from your Bitters in cases of Poor Appetite and Stomach Troubles. I freely endorse it."

MRS. L. GOLDBACH, CHICAGO, ILL., says: "Your Bitters cured me of Cramps, Headache and Stomach Trouble, and I hope every such sufferer will try it."

H. J. CHAPMAN, M. D., SPEED, KANS., says: "I find your Bitters far superior to anything I have ever used for my Stomach Troubles. It does all you claim for it."

HON. JOHN P. BOWER, RUSHBYLVANIA, O., says: "Your Bitters is an extraordinary remedy for Poor Appetite, Stomach Trouble and General Debility. I gladly recommend it."